

First named inventor: Hess
Serial no. 10/672,761
Filed 9/27/2003
Attorney docket no. 200207098-1

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In the claims

1. (currently amended) An image-forming device comprising:
an image-forming mechanism to form images on media, the media manually inserted into the image-forming device and remaining stationary within the image-forming device during image formation thereon, the mechanism including a first media path in which media is moved through the mechanism during image formation thereon and a second media path in which the media is manually inserted and remains stationary within the mechanism during image formation thereon;
a freely rotating switch to detect manual insertion of the media and that is rotated out of the way of the first media path during movement of the media through the first media path so that the switch is not actuated during movement of the media through the first media path; and,
a controller to cause the image-forming mechanism to form an image on the media in response to the sensor detecting manual insertion of the media.
2. (original) The image-forming device of claim 1, wherein the second media path extends to under a printhead of the image-forming mechanism, such that manual insertion of the media within the second media path places the media under the printhead, where the media remains stationary while the printhead forms the image thereon.
3. (original) The image-forming device of claim 1, wherein the sensor comprises a freely rotating switch that is actuated by the media being manually inserted within the second media path, and that is rotated out of the way by the media moving through the image-forming mechanism within the first media path.

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4. (original) The image-forming device of claim 1, further comprising a housing within which the image-forming mechanism, the sensor, and the controller are disposed, the housing defining a slot that exposes the second media path of the image-forming device.
5. (original) The image-forming device of claim 4, further comprising a guide situated on the housing to guide manual insertion of the media into the slot and within the second media path for aligned image formation of the image on the media.
6. (original) The image-forming device of claim 1, wherein the image-forming mechanism comprises a printhead that is able to move across media to form images thereon, the printhead having a print height corresponding to a swath of media such that the printhead forms images on the media on a swath-by-swath basis.
7. (currently amended) The image-forming device of claim [[7]] 6, wherein the image formed by the image-forming mechanism on the media manually inserted is one swath of media in height.
8. (currently amended) The image-forming device of claim [[7]] 6, wherein the printhead is an inkjet printhead ejecting ink to form images on media, such that the image-forming device is an inkjet-printing device.
9. (original) The image-forming device of claim 1, wherein the image to be formed by the image-forming mechanism on the media manually inserted is a predetermined static image that does not normally vary on an image formation job-by-image formation job basis.

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10. (original) The image-forming device of claim 1, wherein the image to be formed by the image-forming mechanism on the media manually inserted is a dynamic image that is able to be varied on an image formation job-by-image formation job basis.

11. (original) The image-forming device of claim 1, further comprising a computer-readable medium to store the image to be formed by the image-forming mechanism on the media manually inserted, such that the image is able to be formed on the media manually inserted without the image-forming device having to be communicatively coupled to a host computing device.

12. (original) The image-forming device of claim 1, further comprising a communications mechanism to communicatively couple the image-forming device with a host computing device to at least initially receive the image to be formed by the image-forming mechanism on the media manually inserted.

13. (original) The image-forming device of claim 1, wherein the media to be manually inserted is an envelope, and the image to be formed on the media manually inserted is a return address.

14. (original) The image-forming device of claim 1, wherein the image to be formed on the media manually inserted is a barcode.

15. (currently amended) An image-forming device comprising:
an image-forming mechanism to form images on media;
a housing within which the image-forming mechanism is disposed and defining an opening into which media is manually inserted such that the media is positioned stationary and adjacent to the image-forming mechanism;

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a freely rotating switch to detect positioning of the media adjacent to the image-forming mechanism and that is rotated out of the way of a media path in which media is moved through the image-forming mechanism during image formation thereon so that the switch is not actuated during movement of the media through the media path; and,

a controller to cause the image-forming mechanism to form an image on the media inserted into the opening of the housing in response to the ~~sensor~~ switch detecting positioning of the media adjacent to the image forming mechanism.

16. (original) The image-forming device of claim 15, wherein the image-forming mechanism comprises an inkjet printhead that is able to move across the media to eject ink thereon, the printhead having a print height corresponding to a swath of media such that the image formed by the image-forming mechanism on the media manually inserted within the image-forming device is one swath of media in height.

17. (original) The image-forming device of claim 15, further comprising a computer-readable medium to store the image to be formed by the image-forming mechanism on the media manually inserted within the opening of the housing, such that the image is able to be formed on the media manually inserted within the opening of the housing without the image-forming device being communicatively coupled to a host computing device.

18. (original) The image-forming device of claim 15, further comprising a communications mechanism to communicatively couple the image-forming device with a host computing device to at least initially receive the image to be formed by the image-forming mechanism on the media manually inserted within the opening of the housing.

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19. (original) The image-forming device of claim 15, further comprising a guide situated on the housing to guide manual insertion of the media into the opening of the housing for aligned image formation of the image on the media.

20. (currently amended) An image-forming device comprising:
an image-forming mechanism to form images on media; and,
means for causing the image-forming mechanism to form an image on media manually inserted into and subsequently remaining stationary within the image-forming device during image formation thereon,

wherein the means for causing the image-forming mechanism to form an image includes a freely rotating switch actuated by manual insertion of the media and that is rotated out of the way of a media path in which media is moved through the image-forming mechanism during image formation thereon so that the switch is not actuated during movement of the media through the media path.

21. (original) The image-forming device of claim 20, wherein the image-forming mechanism comprises an inkjet printhead that is able to move across the media to eject ink thereon, the printhead having a print height corresponding to a swath of media such that the image formed by the image-forming mechanism on the media manually inserted within the image-forming device is one swath of media in height.

22. (previously presented) The image-forming device of claim 20, wherein the means for causing the image-forming mechanism to form an image comprises:
means for causing the image-forming device to form the image on the media in response to actuation of the freely rotating switch by manual insertion of the media.

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23. (currently amended) A method comprising:

detecting manual insertion of media into an opening of an image-forming device using a freely rotating switch, the switch rotated out of the way of a media path in which media is moved through the image-forming mechanism during image formation thereon so that the switch is not actuated during movement of the media through the media path; and,

in response to detecting the manual insertion of the media into the opening of the image-forming device, forming an image on the media while the media remains stationary within the image-forming device.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein detecting the manual insertion of the media into the opening of the image-forming device comprises the manual insertion of the media causing actuation of [[a]] the switch that results in detection of the manual insertion of the media into the opening of the image-forming device.

25. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein forming the image on the media while the media remains stationary within the image-forming device comprises:

moving an inkjet printhead across a swath of the media; and,

ejecting ink by the inkjet printhead while the inkjet printhead moves across the swath of the media, to form the image on the media.

26. (original) The method of claim 23, further comprising initially receiving the image to be formed on the media while the media remains stationary within the image-forming device.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein initially receiving the image to be formed on the media comprises communicating with a host computing device communicatively coupled to the image-forming device to receive the image therefrom.

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28. (original) The method of claim 26, further comprising storing the image on a computer-readable medium within the image-forming device so that the image is able to be formed on the media without the image-forming device having to be communicatively coupled to a host computing device.

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